

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 10 in its entirety with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, in one embodiment elongate core 20 is formed having a generally curved transverse cross-section to form what is known as a bull nose shape defining a convex outer surface 22 and a concave inner surface 24. The elongate flanges 26 project laterally beyond the longitudinal edges of the core. In the embodiment of the strip device shown, transitions 28 are formed at the opposite sides of the bull nose curve to define slight bends serving to direct the respective flanges outwardly away from each other at an angle of about ninety degrees. The core may be made of a number of rigid or semi-rigid materials such as galvanized steel, aluminum, and a variety of plastics, including vinyl, nylon, and PVC. In a preferred embodiment, I have found that from parallel groove 56 and ridges 58 perform satisfactorily. A representative embodiment is formed with the grooves spaced laterally apart a distance of about 1/8th of an inch and the ribs formed to bow outwardly in transverse cross section as described below. Thus, once embedded in joint compound thereunder and the compound cured such ribs present respective barriers against lateral shifting of the respective flanges relative to the joint compound embedded in the respective grooves. Depending on the material selected and the core cross-section desired, the core may be formed through a variety of processes known in the art, including casting, molding, extruding, or roller-forming.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 8 in its entirety with the following amended paragraph:

The elongate cover 40 is configured having a length substantially equal to that of the core 20 but with a greater transverse width. It is preferably made of a paper material, but may be made of other thin, flexible materials such as textiles and synthetic fabrics. In the preferred embodiment, the selected material is to have sufficient tensile strength to resist tearing or chafing, while being sufficiently flexible to facilitate installation, all the while having absorptive and surface characteristics that allow it to be effectively bonded both to the core and to a drywall surface and to, upon curing of the joint compound, provide an appearance complimentary to that of the adjacent drywall surface. It has been discovered that, in one embodiment these objectives are satisfied in a paper cover fabricated by mixing fibers and strengthening compound to encapsulate the fibers with a thin film and then combining three or more layers of such a film to produce a tear- and temperature-resistant paper cover material, as described in copending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/825,766, filed on Apr. 3, 2001, and now U.S. Pat. No. 6,655,101. While ideal for this application, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that other conventional stiff paper such as the covering paper typically used to cover the surface of drywall panels will suffice in this invention.